Hyderabad is also available as a point of call to the designated airlines of USA and UK. Chinese carriers can operate to/from any six points in India, including Hyderabad. However, actual operations by any airline is always guided by its commercial judgement. Air India and Indian Airlines are operating from Hyderabad to Riyadh, Dammam, Jeddah, Bangkok, Dubai, Kuwait, Muscat, Sharjah and Singapore.

Guidelines on employment of foreign pilots

†1489. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to shortage of pilots in the country, many airline companies are appointing foreign pilots;

(b) whether Government have issued any guidelines in this regard keeping in view the security of the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) *vide* Civil Aviation Requirements Section 7, Series 'G' Part-II dated 8-10-1999 has issued guidelines for validation of foreign pilot licences which *inter-alia* requires the operators to submit details of the pilots for facilitating security clearance. Before approving foreign pilots, their security clearances are obtained from the concerned agencies in the Government.

New airport building at Amritsar

1490. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made in the construction of the new airport building and terminal at Amritsar and by when it is likely to be completed; and

(b) the estimated cost thereof and the cost escalation, if any, likely to be incurred thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The upgradation and development of infrastructure including the Terminal Building under first phase at Amritsar Airport is in final stage of completion. The ancillary buildings such as

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.